

Steen's spokeswoman, Alicia Pierce, said Steen was drafting a letter to German.

"We don't generally determine polling locations," Pierce said. "That decision is made at the county level, but the secretary is willing to meet with Miss Barbour. We'll be glad to work with her."

Gary Bledsoe, president of the NAACP state chapter, said Waller County has a history of voter intimidation and suppression of black voters.

REPEATED COMPLAINTS

The lack of polling places on campus, lost voter registration applications and problems with ballot boxes are among the many voting issues that have come up time and again in the county, he said.

"Students are entitled to a voting poll on campus," Bledsoe said. "They have been fighting for one for many years. It's a righteous request."

Barbour's action follows a recent U.S. Supreme Court ruling that struck down a key provision in the Voting Rights Act. The law protects minority voters from discrimination at the polls and, until June, required nine states with a discriminatory history, including Texas, to get federal approval before making changes to election laws.

The ruling gave Texas and other states the green light to push through voter ID laws, which civil rights leaders say will inhibit minority voting.

Prairie View has been at the center of voting right issues as far back as the 1970s, when the U.S. attorney general filed action against Waller County and state officials for the use a questionnaire that denied Prairie View students the right to vote.

In 1992, 19 students were indicted for improperly voting, which led to a Supreme Court ruling that authorized students to register and vote in communities where they live.

The NAACP and four students filed a federal lawsuit in 2004 after the county district attorney tried to enforce residency requirements that would keep students from voting. Another suit was filed around the same time after county officials shortened the early voting period at the campus without Justice Department approval.

The district attorney rescinded his action as part of a settlement and county officials added an extra early voting day on campus after being questioned by the Justice Department.

PREVIOUS PROTEST

In 2008, nearly 1,000 Prairie View students marched in protest of the lack of an early voting place on campus. The county, citing budget concerns, reduced the number of early voting polling sites from six to one, requiring students to walk miles to the polling location. The Justice Department instructed county officials to add three polling sites.

Barbour said she was apprehensive about sending her letters but figured she had nothing to lose.

"Even if nothing's accomplished, now the tone is set," she said. "I'm not the first to tackle the issue and I'm sure I won't be the last. This gives students a chance to be knowledgeable and take a stand."

TRIBUTE TO ANDREW WHITEFORD

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, I am proud to recognize Andrew Whiteford of Richmond, VT, owner of Andy's Dandys, maker of all-natural dog treats.

Marcelle and I had the pleasure of meeting Andrew and his mother Lucie Whiteford at the bicentennial celebration for Richmond's Old Round Church,

and we were so impressed with him. Andrew was born with Down syndrome, and his family started Andy's Dandys as a means for Andrew to have meaningful employment and to provide jobs for other young adults with special needs. His work is in line with the best of Vermont's spirit of service to others, and for that I ask that the article by Lynn Monty from the August 22, 2013, edition of the Burlington Free Press be printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Burlington Free Press, Aug. 22, 2013]

RICHMOND BAKERY COOKS UP JOB-TRAINING PROGRAM AND SUCCESSFUL BUSINESS

A mother's creative approach to helping her son transition to adulthood, and all-natural dog treats, are the recipe for success at Andy's Dandys.

Lucie Whiteford launched the Richmond bakery to help her son Andrew (Andy) Whiteford, 21, who was born with Down syndrome, find meaningful employment after high school graduation.

The business was inspired by her boy's affection for his rescued hound named Rosie and his love for reading recipes and baking.

"I hope for him to be fulfilled, happy, healthy, as independent as he wants to be, and to continue to be in a social environment surrounded by people who understand him and love him," Whiteford said of her son.

This Bridge Street bakery is on a mission to illustrate employability, while producing a high-quality Vermont product. The original goal of supporting Whiteford in his growth from high school to adult work life has evolved to serving other young adults with special needs, and teaching them real work-based skills that they can take with them in their job search for future employment.

"The mission of Andy's Dandys is to employ and train people to be employable," business partner Leshia Rasco said. She is Whiteford's special educator at Mount Mansfield Union High School where he will graduate next year.

"It's the revenue stream that makes the mission part possible," Rasco said. "In the future we hope that it will build."

Rasco designs and implements individualized work training programs at Andy's Dandys for other young adults with special needs. She has been an instrumental part of Whiteford's growth and of developing his business.

The business has grown organically, Rasco said. "Lucie has been buying things and paying herself back."

BAKER, DECORATER, DELIVERER

Andrew Whiteford bakes and decorates Andy's Dandy treats and also makes deliveries and works to promote the business at trade shows and seasonal events.

Andy actually goes by Andrew.

"His name is Andrew. We don't call him Andy," Lucie Whiteford said.

"Call me Andy," Andrew Whiteford said with a smile.

"He is yanking my chain," Lucie Whiteford said. "The business was named Andy's Dandys because we wanted some link to Andrew, because this was for him, and because it has a nice ring to it. Should we decide to one day make something other than pet treats, we won't have to change the name."

On a recent morning, a baker's apron was folded in half, and tied around his waist, not

around his neck, just the way he requested. Andrew Whiteford was just as meticulous about dipping each one of the many freshly baked molasses dog bones into bright orange yogurt frosting, as he was about donning his apron.

"There are all kinds of colors, like blue, orange, and sometimes brown," he said. "I want to sell these in Las Vegas and on a Hawaii beach someday. I am not joking. It's true."

PRESERVATIVE FREE TREATS

Joking or not, Andy's Dandys has taken off.

The business started in 2008. Andrew Whiteford began by selling the treats in school and at Saint Michael's College, where his father Tim Whiteford is an associate professor of education.

By fall of that year a few hundred of the colorful dog treats sold from a couple Chittenden County convenience stores. Overall, 8,500 treats sold that year.

The bakery uses human-grade ingredients and the treats are preservative-free.

Today, the bakery turns out thousands of treats each week, which sell at about 95 stores in Vermont, New Hampshire, upstate New York, and Maine. Thirty-two thousand treats sold in 2012.

"This year we are pacing about 20 percent ahead of where we were last year, and last year was a 100 percent increase over 2011," Lucie Whiteford said.

CUSTOM SHAPED FOR YOUR BUSINESS

The bakery has started offering custom-shaped treats that reflect a business' name or product. For example, a flying pig dog treat for the Northfield Savings Bank instead of the standard milk-bone biscuit, she said.

"It's about offering customers a Vermont-made product to demonstrate support for a small Vermont business such as ours," she said. "They gave us a shot, and I understand that customers really love them."

Lucie Whiteford came on staff full-time last month after leaving her position as an account executive at Fox 44 TV. She hopes to begin drawing a salary as the new quarter starts in September.

"It's profitable now which is why I was able to leave my job to do this full time," she said. "Now that I can work on this business full time, I expect to be able to double sales again in a year's time."

THE BIGGEST REWARD

More than revenues, Lucie Whiteford's biggest reward is watching her son succeed in adulthood. She said raising a child with a disability has been enlightening and rewarding.

"We celebrate what most people consider mundane accomplishments, such as learning to speak well enough to be understood, learning to button a shirt or tie a shoe," she said.

Andrew Whiteford has always pushed himself to achieve goals singing a solo at the senior recital, snowboarding down a black diamond trail, and teaching himself how to dip dog treats with two hands at once, his mother said.

"He continues to exceed our expectations, reminding us that we should be mindful about not setting the bar low just because he has a disability," she said. "As a family we have all grown so much in terms of learning patience, patience and more patience."

Andrew Whiteford has come into his own in the past few years, his sister Marie Johnson said. "He has a definite interest in this business now," she said. "He has developed a sense of ownership."

Their mother agreed. "Andrew turned a corner this summer. He decided he wanted to

come here and work with me. It was what it was all for, and me sticking with it, and having it be a part of our lives, and having it become the thing he has decided to do it, I couldn't be happier," she said.

Andy's Dandys manufactures and packages the treats at the Bridge Street shop, and will be opening a retail store at that location in mid-September.

CORRECTION

This story has been updated to reflect the following correction: Lucie Whiteford launched the Richmond bakery Andy's Dandys. Her name was misspelled in two instances in a previous version of this story.

TRIBUTE TO MARK WOODS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I rise today to congratulate my good friend Mr. Mark Woods. Mark is currently the superintendent of one of the Commonwealth of Kentucky's most important preserves of natural beauty, the Cumberland Gap National Historic Park, a post he's held for 16 years. The Cumberland Gap National Historic Park sits at the border of Kentucky, Tennessee, and Virginia, although of course, the most breathtaking parts are within the Bluegrass State.

Kentuckians will be sorry to see Mark go due to his recent and much deserved promotion: Later this month, Mark will assume his new duties as superintendent of the Blue Ridge Parkway. The Blue Ridge Parkway runs for over 450 miles through Virginia and North Carolina along the Blue Ridge Mountains. It is the most visited attraction of the entire U.S. National Park Service—more than Yellowstone, Yosemite, or the Grand Canyon.

Mark is a 33-year veteran of the National Park Service and has worked in parks in South Carolina, Tennessee, and Georgia as well as Kentucky. I am sure his family is very proud of him for this career accomplishment. Although I will miss working with Mark in Kentucky, I am pleased that citizens everywhere can still benefit from his knowledge and experience when they visit our national parks.

I know my colleagues join me in congratulating Mr. Mark Woods for this opportunity and thanking him for his dedication to the National Park Service. Mr. Woods's career and accomplishments to date were recently profiled in a newspaper article. I ask unanimous consent that said article be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the article was ordered to appear as follows:

[From the Asheville Citizen-Times, Aug. 7, 2013]

SC NATIVE NAMED NEW PARKWAY SUPERINTENDENT (By Karen Chávez)

ASHEVILLE.—A 33-year National Park Service veteran with Southern Appalachian roots has been chosen as the new superintendent of the Blue Ridge Parkway.

Mark Woods, 53, now superintendent at Cumberland Gap National Historic Park, which sits in Kentucky, Virginia and Tennessee, will take over leadership of the busiest national park site in the country September 22 at parkway headquarters in Asheville.

"Mark has got some great experience," said Bill Reynolds, National Park Service spokesman in Atlanta. "He spent most of his career in the Southeast."

Woods, who was raised in Greenville, S.C., received a bachelor's degree in sociology from Lander University in Greenwood, S.C., in 1982. He is married and has three children.

He began working as an interpretive ranger for the National Park Service in 1980 at parks including Ninety Six National Historic Site (Ninety Six, S.C.), Kings Mountain National Military Park (Blacksburg, S.C.), Andrew Johnson National Historic Site (Greeneville, Tenn.), and Cumberland Island National Seashore (St. Mary's, Ga.)

Woods will replace Phil Francis, who retired as superintendent of the parkway in April. Monika Mayr, deputy superintendent since 2009, has been acting superintendent since April, and had applied for the position.

The parkway has not had a female superintendent in its 78 years.

Mayr, a 30-year park service veteran, said she has known Woods for many years and thinks he will be a good fit.

"He's a very good leader," she said. "He has always wanted to work at the parkway because he loves the resources here and he knows the staff is really good."

Woods also gets a hearty endorsement from Francis, who oversaw the parkway for eight years and still lives in Asheville.

"I've known him over 20 years. He's well respected," Francis said.

"He's a very able leader of Cumberland Gap. It's not as big as the parkway, but he's already had to deal with some of the same issues on a different scale. Sequestration cuts happened at all national parks, so he's had to make those same kinds of decisions."

The federal sequester forced all national parks to reduce their budgets by 5 percent for the remainder of the year, starting in March.

Woods will inherit the aftermath of the nearly \$800,000 budget cut, which was accomplished through facility closures, cuts to seasonal and permanent staff, cutbacks on visitor services such as ranger programs and a decrease in the mowing operation and maintenance of the parkway's scenic overlooks.

He must also contend with a \$450 million deferred maintenance backlog, which has been growing for more than a decade.

"Mark has a tremendous background in working with gateway communities," Reynolds said. "He also has background in facility design and construction, viewshed protection, wilderness management and general management planning. A broad range of excellent knowledge and experience has made him well suited for this job."

SIMILAR PARKS ON DIFFERENT SCALES

Woods has been superintendent of Cumberland Gap, known as the gateway to the western frontier, since 1997.

"Cumberland Gap is the first doorway to the West, the path that Daniel Boone and the pioneers used to access the West," said Carol Borneman, supervisory park ranger at Cumberland.

The park and the parkway have some similarities. Much like the parkway, Cumberland Gap sits in the Appalachian Mountains, and is steeped in Southern Appalachian history and culture.

Cumberland Gap was authorized by Congress in 1940 to preserve the natural gap through the mountain that pioneers used to reach the western frontier centuries ago. It contains 24,000 acres with nearly 85 miles of forested hiking trails. For 50 years, a major highway passed through the Gap.

But in one of the largest restoration projects undertaken by the National Park Service, Borneman said, a highway tunnel

was built through the Gap in 1996, the old highway was ripped out and the Gap restored to its Daniel Boone days as a walking path. From one overlook in the park, Borneman said, the Smokies can be seen on a clear day.

The culture, history and views drew 860,000 visitors in 2012.

Things will likely seem a little more crowded for Woods when he gets to the Blue Ridge Parkway. The most visited of the more than 400 units of the National Park Service, including such popular parks as Yellowstone, Yosemite, the Grand Canyon and the Great Smoky Mountains national parks, the parkway had 15.2 million visitors in 2012.

The parkway stretches 469 miles from Shenandoah National Park in Virginia through the Blue Ridge Mountains, ending in Cherokee, and contains 81,000 acres of land and 1,200 miles of boundary.

Established in 1935 as a scenic motor road, cars and traffic continue to be one of its biggest issues. October is generally the busiest month on the parkway, and Woods will arrive just in time for the heavy fall foliage traffic.

He will also face a major closure in one of the parkway's most popular areas in the height of summer tourist season. A 20-mile stretch just north of Asheville, through the Craggy Gardens area to Mount Mitchell State Park, has been closed to traffic since July 12 due to slope failure, presumably from the excessive spring and summer rain, staff say.

Crews are now working on a temporary fix to open the roadway by Labor Day for the fall leaf-peeping traffic, then will close again while the road is permanently fixed.

Borneman said Cumberland Gap is sad to see Woods leave.

"He is an incredible superintendent, so in tune to park resources, and such a proponent of working with local communities," she said. "The parkway is lucky to be getting him."

ARIEL RIOS REFLECTING POOL

Mrs. BOXER. Madam President, I would like to recognize Ariel Rios, a man who made the ultimate sacrifice while protecting our country and who is being honored today at a special dedication ceremony here in Washington, DC.

On September 10, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives—ATF—is honoring Special Agent Ariel Rios, who gave his life in the line of duty, by dedicating the Ariel Rios Reflecting Pool at the ATF Headquarters in Washington, DC.

On December 2, 1982, while conducting an undercover operation in support of an investigation into illegal drug and firearms violations, Agent Rios was shot and killed. At the time of his death, Agent Rios was 28 years old and had worked for ATF for 4 years. His killers were sentenced to life in prison, plus 50 years. Agent Rios was survived by his wife Elsie and their young children Eileen and Francisco.

Naming the reflecting pool at the ATF Headquarters, which is located at 99 New York Avenue NE, in honor of Agent Rios brings him home to his ATF family. This memorial will forever provide ATF employees with a place to honor and reflect on the life of an agent who made the ultimate sacrifice.